

Gordon and Leona Bailey House
525 Anderson Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Research and photography by
Gail Littlefield, Historian, March 2001



I. Summary

The Bailey House sits on a lot and a half on the north side of the 500 block of Anderson Avenue. It is a vernacular Georgian-colonial revival house with a side-gabled roof, an enclosed sun porch, and a rear porch addition. It was built in 1935 and 1936. Part of the West End Park subdivision, the property was first offered for sale by Henry Copp in 1890, but not built on until the 1930's. The neighborhood includes many historic homes, and encompasses part of the West Montgomery National Register Historic District. The Beall-Dawson House sits a few blocks away from #525. Prior to their listing in the Rockville Historic Buildings Catalog, MHT surveys were conducted on 529 Anderson Avenue (The Linthicum House, Catalog No. 134), 549 Anderson (The Reed Bungalow, Catalog No. 132), and 605 Anderson (The Fisher-Winner House, Catalog No. 133). The present owners of the house are Mahmoud Amin and Fakhri B. Vaziri, 525 Anderson Avenue, Rockville, Md., 20850-21001.

II. Architectural and Design Significance

The 500 block of Anderson Avenue is a quiet narrow asphalt street, without curbs, sidewalks, or paved space for street parking. Houses on the block are a mix of small bungalows and Cape Cods, larger two-story brick, stucco, or frame houses from the first half of the twentieth century, and newer traditional-style homes.

Next door at #529 is the Linthicum House, (photograph on right) which is included in the Rockville catalog. Its west half reveals its Victorian origins, with its two-story bay massing, while its east half appears to be a later addition.



Linthicum House, 529 Anderson Avenue

Further west at #531 is a modern interpretation of a two-story front gable frame house.
(See photograph to the right →)

Next door to the east at #523 (below) is a small bungalow with a classical porch roof supported by its Arts and Crafts porch piers/pillars. Across the street, #526 is a stuccoed Cape Cod, next to an American four-square (below right). The style and mass of the Bailey House are compatible with the others in this eclectic block.



531 Anderson Avenue



523 Anderson Avenue



526 Anderson Avenue



The Bailey House is a vernacular two-story side-gabled Georgian colonial-revival, coated with spray-texture stucco, painted yellow. The stucco is original. The traditional Arts and Crafts style plain board

trim is painted white. The off-center original craftsman front door is sheltered by a classically pedimented entry porch roof. It is not known if the six-over-six double-hung window sashes are original, two of which are paired on the west elevation.



The house's roof material is composition shingle. The red brick chimney projects halfway from the east façade. Obscuring its base is an enclosed one-story jalousied porch. At the rear is a shed roofed enclosed porch and pantry.

As indicated on the attached Tax Assessor's worksheet, the main block of the house is 26 feet wide and 25 feet deep with an unfinished attic and partial basement. The one-bay wood-frame front gable garage is located to the east rear and described as "very old."



The Bailey House sits on its 190 foot deep by 75 feet wide lot landscaped with trees, shrubs, and ivy. The backyard still retains trellises and other landscaping furniture. It appears a tree may have been removed recently from the front yard. The house and yard appear to be in very good condition.

III. History and significance

The Gordon and Leona Bailey House sits on Lot 10 and the west half of Lot 9, Block 7, on the north side of Anderson Avenue. Platted in 1890 by Henry Copp, "West End Park" was a 520-acre residential and resort subdivision then adjoining the west boundary of the City of Rockville. West Montgomery Avenue (now also known as Maryland Route 28), one block to the south, was then called the Rockville-Darnestown Road. It formed the southern border of West End Park. Anderson Avenue was probably named after the prominent Rockville family that had owned the property earlier in the nineteenth century.

To put together his resort and residential development, Henry Copp had purchased land from a number of owners, including 247-1/2 acres for \$50,000 from John T. Vinson.¹ In 1894, following the Depression of 1893, Copp mortgaged his property back to Vinson for \$45,000.² In 1895 both Copp and Vinson conveyed Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Block 7 to Alice E. Nutt Wise, of Alexandria, Va.³ The price for the four lots comprising 38,000 square feet was \$1200, from which price it can be assumed that there were no improvements at that time.

Alice E. Nutt Wise died in 1905 and the property stayed in her family until 1934, when her heirs sold the four lots to Buell Gardner.⁴ Several months later he sold Lot 10 and the west half of lot 9, with 75 feet fronting on Anderson Avenue, to Gordon W. and Leona A.

Bailey.⁵ The date given for the construction of the house on the Tax Assessor's worksheet is 1937 (attached). If this information is correct, it would mean that the Baileys built the house at 525 Anderson, and members of the Bailey family confirm this. The Baileys had at least two children, Howard, who worked for the City of Rockville, and David G., who married Carolyn Barnsley on December 25, 1941, in Spartansburg, SC.⁶

Gordon Bailey died on September 16, 1950. On December 12, 2000, his widow, Leona A., conveyed the property for \$225,000 to Mahmoud Amin and Fakhri B. Vaziri.⁷ Mrs. Bailey and her son, Howard Bailey, now live in North Carolina.

Bailey Family History provided by Sheila Bailey Dixon
March, 2001

The house at 525 Anderson was built in 1935 by Gordon and Leona Bailey. The liens were removed and the mortgage paid off in 1937. The stucco siding is original and so are the upstairs windows while the lower windows are replacements.

Gordon Bailey and Leona Alpha Schaeffer left northern Virginia to come to Rockville to marry, according to family history and grandmother's (Leona Bailey's) confirmation to me ten years ago. They eloped and ran away from home. Grandad Gordon Bailey got a job with the Esso Co. (now Exxon gasoline and oil) distributor and over the years also managed several stations. He worked at the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission) Board and during the last 12 years of his life, he worked for the Public Health Institute in Bethesda as a machinist and Instrument maker. Grandad was born in 1891 and died 3 months before his 60th birthday of a cerebral hemorrhage. Leona was a seamstress and still receives a pension. She is the oldest living member of Rockville Presbyterian Church, which she attended since 1915 when she and Gordon came to Rockville to be married. She was born November 6, 1898, and was known for her lovely gardens and flower beds. The tree removed in the front was a mature tree when they built the home in 1935.

Gordon and Leona Bailey had three children: Howard, David G. (80), who resides in Daytona Beach Florida, and a daughter, Mildred, born two years after David. Mildred died of cancer in 1990 in her home in Albuquerque New Mexico. Her husband, Colonel Arthur Beall (retired), preceded her in death. Mr. Beall's family was also from the Northern Virginia area. Mildred and Arthur had three children.

Howard married Betty Jane Perdue on June 2, 1950. They met at Chestnut Lodge where she was doing nursing training. Ms. Perdue was from Bluefield, West Virginia, and after living one year in Twinbrook, they moved to West Virginia. Howard returned to Rockville in 1993 to live with his mother and eventually worked part time for the City of Rockville, then full time. Like his father, Howard experienced a massive cerebral hemorrhage in June of 2000, but survived the stroke. He was on duty at City Hall at the time of the incident and received emergency medical assistance immediately. Howard has three daughters and presently resides close to them in Huntersville, North Carolina, where he moved for rehabilitation. At that time his mother, Leona (102), moved to North Carolina with him to join the rest of the family.

Shelia Bailey Dillon

¹ L/F JA 21/322, (9/11/1890).

² L/F JA 47/105, (10/12/1894).

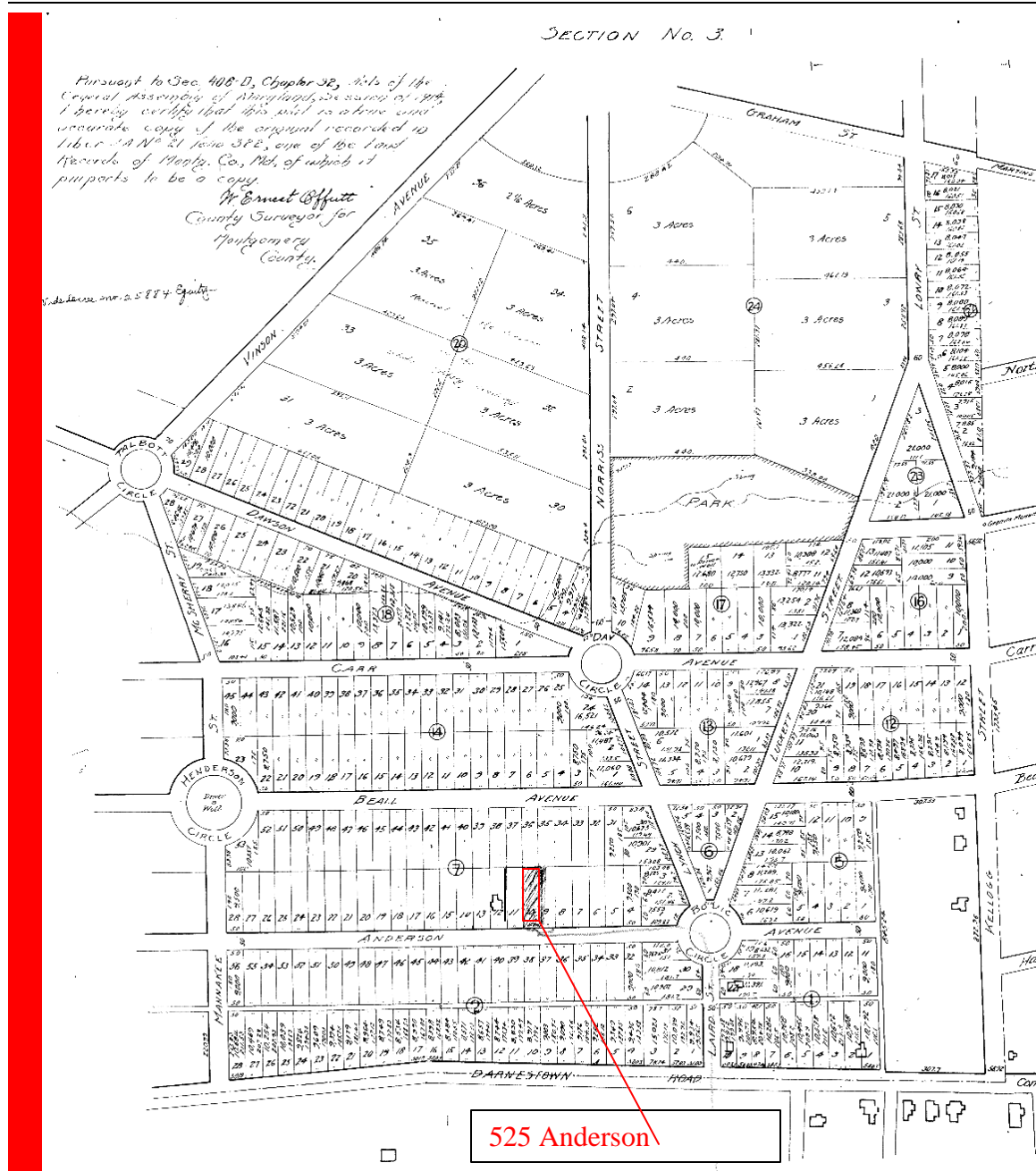
³ L/F JA 49/435, (8/1/1895).

⁴ L/F 574/138, (2/16/1934).

⁵ L/F 584/239,(1/3/1935); 584/239, (1/14/1934); 574/215,(8/14/1934).

⁶ MCHS Sentinel Abstracts files.

⁷ L/F 18635/433, (12/19/2000).



Original Plat of West End Section Three, showing location of 525 Anderson Avenue



Location of 525 Anderson Avenue